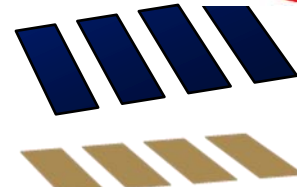


# The Dirt



SIR Newsletter Insert  
November 2018

*Cultural and Environmental News  
brought to you by the Susanville Indian Rancheria  
Natural Resources Department (NRD)*



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**Photo: Looking north towards Hidden Valley from the Tribes' 300 acre North of Susanville Estate (NOSE) property.**



## Meet the NeRDs...

### *Natural Resources Department Mission Statement:*

*To assess, protect and enhance the tribal and environmental resources (culture, language, land, air, water) on the ancestral homelands of the tribes and bands of SIR*

**ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS** — Aaron Brazzanovich Jr.  
Environmental Technician and TYCC Supervisor  
530-251-5636, [abrazzanovich@sir-nsn.gov](mailto:abrazzanovich@sir-nsn.gov)

**ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS** — Jen Lam  
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**ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS** — Stephen Young  
Environmental Intern  
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**CULTURAL NEWS** — Melany Johnson  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer and NAGPRA Coordinator  
530-251-5633, [mjohnson@sir-nsn.gov](mailto:mjohnson@sir-nsn.gov)

**ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS** — Roselynn Lwenya  
Natural Resources Director  
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**From left to right: Chaz, Damon, Jen, Aaron, Sonseri, Melany, Stephen, Roselynn and Octavio.**



**SIR Natural Resources Department  
745 Joaquin Street, Susanville, CA 96130**



## Prescribed Burning Training

### Klamath TREX 2018 Prescribe burn training

“I had such a good time I hated for it to end. I learned so much! Everyone was so welcoming. I will miss them all! Every firefighter should be required to do this program before they go out on their first fire incident! It’s run like a small-scale incident, so you can dissect it and get a better feel for the different offices and chain of command. On an actual fire incident, things happen fast and behind closed doors, it makes you feel like a cog in a wheel. But at TREX everything is explained. It’s a perfect opportunity to work on a task book, or cross train to gain experience in another area. By putting fire on the ground yourself you gain hands-on fire behavior experience. This program is stewarded by the Karuk Tribe who take the time to educate participants on the cultural and spiritual significance of introducing fire back into the landscape. There are some experiences in this world that grab hold of your soul and change you as a person, experiences you will treasure forever, KLA-MATH TREX is one of those experiences! My thanks to everyone who took time to train others, to keeping them safe, and fed with delicious food. I am very honored to have been accepted and able to attend this program.”

**-Sonseri Brower, SIR NRD Forestry Crew Assistant Supervisor**

**Thank you to the SIR for sponsoring the training!!!**





## Conservation News

### **Susanville Indian Rancheria Cradle Valley Conservation Stewardship Program: Roselynn Lwenya**

The SIR was awarded the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) contract by the USDA-NRCS in 2015 for the Cradle Valley property. Two areas of pollinator habitat had previously been planted with native trees, shrubs, and forbs/grasses totaling approximately 1.2 acres outside of the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easement.

Recently, the NRD staff met with Daniel Martynn, NRCS District Conservationist, and Tiffany Russel, USFS Biologist, to establish recommendations for the re-planting at Cradle Valley. NRD created a sustainable plant design to increase habitat for pollinators, beneficial insects, and wildlife habitat. The existing conditions of the 1.2 acres of Cradle Valley were taken into consideration to determine the habitat needs.

A pollinator is an insect or mammal that uses flowering plants for resources such as food and habitat. When these animals come into contact with these plants, the pollen becomes attached to their bodies. As they move from place to place, the pollen spreads to other areas, causing new growth in different areas. Pollinators include bees, butterflies, moths, mice, bats, hummingbirds, and bears.

NRD worked with NRCS staff to develop the list of native pollinator plants suitable for beneficial insect habitat. The native pollinator plants were purchased from Washoe Nursery and planted. These included:

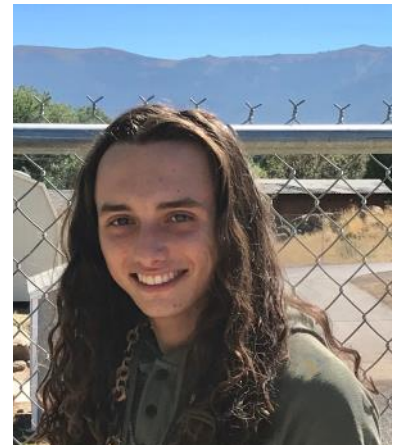
- Buffaloberry supercells
- Wild Rose
- Blue flax
- Globe mallow
- Narrow leaf Milkweed
- Sagebrush
- Bitter brush
- Purple sage



According to NRCS, increased habitat for pollinators will improve fruit set, size and quality, productivity per acre, biodiversity, beneficial insect populations, and the food base for many wildlife species. The increased plant diversity of pollinator habitat will enhance wildlife habitat and may increase populations of other beneficial insects, reducing the need for pesticides.



## Meet the Intern



Stephen Young, NRD Environmental Intern

Hesasaka? Ni kakas Stephen Young, kan ni kakas Nakam Koyom Tosidom maidum.

How are you? I am Stephen Young, and I am a Big Meadows Mountain Maidu man.

I am an enrolled member of the Susanville Indian Rancheria, and I have had the opportunity and pleasure of working with the Natural Resources Department for three summers. I worked two summers in a row in 2015 and 2016 as a TYCC member and this August I got to work as an environmental intern through CIMC. I enjoyed this experience a lot, especially that I got to work in the NRD, my favorite department. I enjoyed working out in the field with Aaron and the forestry crew cleaning up and learning about the environment, the plants, water resources, and the wildlife that inhabit our area. I also enjoyed working in the office with Melany and Roselynn learning about how we conduct our environmental projects and learning about how we work as a department. Because of this experience, I gained a better grasp on the goals and vision that the Natural Resources Department has for our tribal members, our homes, our culture, and our land.

Working in NRD taught me to be a hard and diligent worker and to work as a team to get the job accomplished. Working out in the field at Crater Lake with Aaron and TYCC was a perfect example of this, because we were all able to perform clean up on the trails around the lake in a timely fashion by working together. Working with the forestry crew was a team work experience as well, because we worked around the Diamond Mountain Casino cleaning up the moat and feeling some trees. We got a lot of work done by working together. Whenever I worked in the office, I experienced a safe and kind environment, and filing papers was quite a learning experience because I got to learn about the different agencies the NRD work with such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). I also learned about the diverse cultures of the four nations of the SIR and how they used the different resources that the land has to offer. I was given the opportunity to attend meetings with representatives from agencies such as BIA and Honey Lake Valley Resource Conservation District. These meetings taught me to take good notes, pay attention, and to be professional and formal when meeting with representatives from major agencies. These meetings also gave me an idea on how we work with other companies or agencies to protect and preserve our natural resources and the different ways that they help us.

But the work didn't stop there. At the beginning of October, Aaron Brazzanovich, Jennifer Lam, and myself planted a pollinator garden up at the SIR Cradle Valley Property to help the continued growth and regrowth of some of the plant life that was damaged by cows along the creek and wetland meadow areas over the summer. A pollinator is an insect or mammal that uses flowering plants' resources such as nectar and leaves as food. When the pollinators come in contact with a flowering plant, pollen will attach to its body, and when the pollinator goes away, the pollen spreads to other areas and produces new plant life. Examples of pollinators are butterflies, moths, bees, mice, bats, and hummingbirds. We planted pollinator plants such as sagebrush, bitterbrush, globe mallow, milkweed, and buffalo berry. The NRD is hoping to start seeing new growth on our Cradle Valley property next spring.

With the guidance and teaching of Aaron Brazzanovich, I learned how to take water samples from the houses on the Upper Rancheria for the purposes of testing to see if the water contains any coliform bacteria. We also performed sampling at the monitoring well in Herlong to test for chlorate and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Through this process we make sure that the water is safe for our community to drink and/or use in everyday life.

I truly had an amazing experience working alongside some amazing people, and I hope to do it again! For the tribal youth that read this, I have one thing to say to you. Be diligent, hardworking, and help your communities in any way possible. Practice good environmental habits, such as conserving water, picking up trash in your area and recycling. Learn and know your culture and connect with it daily. Practice prayer every day, be kind to your friends and family, and respect your elders. Learn your tribal language and songs. Practice them every day. Be one with who you are as a Native individual.

Yahat bisma'ankano. Chi ma'akas min!

You will be well. I will see you later!



### **SIR Climate Change Program: Roselynn Lwenya, Director of Natural Resources**

The TBC recently approved the SIR Climate Change Vulnerability Risk Assessment Plan which was developed by the Natural Resources Department. We would like to take a moment to thank you all for taking time from your busy schedules to attend our workshops and share your knowledge on how climate change may affect the SIR community. Your valuable input went a long way to enrich the plan. Here is a summary of what the plan entails. For those interested in reviewing the entire document, please stop by the NRD office and pick your copy!

#### **What is Climate Change?**

- ▶ Any significant change in measures of climate (Precipitation, Wind, Temperature over long period of time).
- ▶ Climate change may result from natural factors and processes and from human activities that change the atmosphere's composition and land surface.

#### **SIR Climate Change Goals**

- ▶ NRD will assess climate change preparedness.
- ▶ NRD will develop tribal specific climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies.
- ▶ Strengthen resiliency of the Tribe to adapt to an uncertain future.
- ▶ Education and Awareness raising on climate change mitigation, adaptability and early warnings.

#### **Why Climate Change Vulnerability**

- ▶ Identifies key resources that may be impacted by climate change.
- ▶ Prepares the tribe on ways to respond to the potential impacts.

#### **SIR Resources of Priority**

- ▶ Water Resources
- ▶ Forestry Resources
- ▶ Biodiversity
- ▶ Cultural Resources
- ▶ Build Environment
- ▶ Social Environment
- ▶ Air Resources



#### **Summary of Observed Trends in Climate**

- ▶ Extreme prolonged heat and cold temperatures: Heat and cold related illnesses.
- ▶ Increasing variation in precipitation: Low water supply during hot, dry summers.
- ▶ Decreasing snow pack.
- ▶ Increased drought.
- ▶ Increased Flooding: Poor water quality during flood events.
- ▶ Habitat decrease due to water scarcity.
- ▶ Increasing Fires: Impacts of wildfire: Air Quality Issues for vulnerable groups.
- ▶ Invasive species impacting wildlife and plant species.

#### **Next Steps for SIR Climate Change**

- ▶ Establishing SIR climate change working group.
- ▶ Funding opportunities to develop the SIR Adaptation and Implementation plan.
- ▶ Research on emerging issues on Climate change.
- ▶ Enhance collaboration with partners –to address climate change risks
- ▶ Education and awareness creation for tribal community
- ▶ Be proactive rather than reactive in the face of climate change impacts and outline how to adapt the most vulnerable resources to projected changes in climate.

## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERS (NATHPO) CONFERENCE IN SEATTLE, WA



Bambi Krause, NATHPO



Ginger Carter, Madeline Konz, Sarah Glass,  
Jamie Lee Marks,  
NPS THPO and NAGPRA



House of the Awakened Culture, Suquamish Tribe

The theme for this years conference was

**“TRIBAL CONSULTATION IN INDIAN COUNTRY”**



## THPO News



**PAR Archaeology and THPO, Melany Johnson**

Summer! Summer is the time for field work. THPO must prioritize field work with paper work. There is nothing like being in the desert heat...it's a dry heat and I love it. It's hard work and I love it. THPO is tasked with protecting Tribal lands, as well as Aboriginal territory. Properties in the Aboriginal territories include public lands, managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Forest Service (FS), and other agencies. Then, we have private land owners. THPO has been working with Greenleaf Energy, first, and Nextera Energy, second, for the past 2 years on a solar project. Nextera Energy is the finest company I've ever worked with. The archaeology was done by PAR Environmental. They are well known within our area. I love working with them. All of the sage brush had to be removed to install the pads for the solar panels. The panels will not require subsurface disturbance. It's a brand new technology, being used by Nextera. THPO goes out to the site weekly to check on progress.



**Photo of the project area after the brush was cleared.**



## Archaeology Month



**Archaeology Month, BLM and Susanville Indian Rancheria NRD, THPO participated in this yearly presentation**  
**Acorn processing was the theme for THPO this year.**



**Valda Locke & Sharynn Blood**



**Marilla Martin, BLM, Eagle Lake Field Office, Archaeologist**



## Pollinators at Cradle Valley



**NRD Staff and Dan Martynn from NRCS took a field tour of Cradle Valley to see what type of plants will be the best for pollinators in the decomposed granite (DG). Pollinators are flowers and plants that attract honey bees, butterflies and birds.**

### Spring Tea at Cradle Valley



### Blue Lupine at Cradle Valley



### Pollinators at Cradle Valley, Wild Rose



## Water Conservation...

### Tips For Saving Water

There are many ways to conserve water. We need to always be thinking about conserving water. If we are thinking about it, we are less likely to be wasting the water that we use. It is our responsibility to conserve water whenever possible. People waste gallons of water every day. We must learn to save our water so that in the years ahead of us, we will have plenty of pure, clean water for now and future generations.

Saving water is a major issue, whether you're an ecologically minded environmentalist conserving for the good of the planet, or you are an average Susanville resident concerned about how your water bill may go up during a drought. It's the little things that we rarely think about that make the biggest difference. Here are some tips to help you with water conservation. If you get through all of them, you may even save mon-



**Brushing your Teeth:** Turn off the water while brushing your teeth. There is no need to keep water pouring down the drain. Just wet your brush and turn off the water. You can turn the water back on when you are ready to rinse.

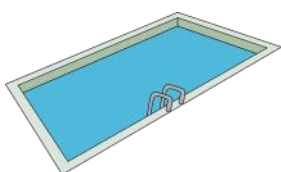
**Showers:** Take shorter showers. Long, hot showers can waste five to ten gallons every unneeded minute. Limit your showers to the time it takes to soap up, wash down, and rinse off. You can also install a water-saving shower head to help reduce the amount of water used during a shower. A one or two minute reduction in your shower time can end up saving you up to 375 gallons of water per month.

**Baths:** Take baths instead of showers. A bath in a partially filled tub uses less water than all but the shortest showers.



**Water Heater:** If you have an old water heater, consider investing in a new one. Often these old heaters take forever to warm up, causing people to run (and waste) water waiting for it to get hot.

**Washing Machine:** When using your automatic washing machine, adjust the water level to the correct setting for the size of load you plan to wash. If you have a sink or shower leak and you can't afford, or can't be bothered to get, a plumber, consider putting a bucket beneath the drip. Then use the collected water to water plants.



**Swimming Pool:** If you have a swimming pool consider covering it to prevent water evaporation



**Kitchen Sink:** Rather than using an electric disposal for kitchen waste, start a compost pile.

# Environmental Word Search

Complete this puzzle and turn it in to NRD to win a prize!

N P Z V C Y J O Z B K O V F H  
O H R G O W R Y L S X Y R S X  
I B B E N J U R N J C T U E T  
T W E D S A S R E X H R M R T  
C A L A E E J R J B B A A E I  
E T X Y R Z R P E E R D A N J  
T E E K V G I V G P I E V X S  
O R G V A E R A A T I A D L A  
R S A K T E S A I T S N I L X  
P H M Q I E Z O S I I A U H E  
H E A Y O Q N K V S R O U J B  
X D D K N A W E A T N G N N U  
F B M Z L P O L L U T I O N Y  
L H S U R B R E T T I B C F F  
Y R T S E R O F Z M B Y K T Y

BEARGRASS BITTERBRUSH CONSERVATION DAMAGE  
ELDERBERRY FORESTRY  
INVASIVE JUNIPER  
POLLUTION PRESERVATION PROTECTION SAGE-  
BRUSH TRADITIONAL TRAILS  
WATERSHED

